



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Steven Thiele et al.
FOR : **IMPROVED TAILGATE DUAL MODE
HINGE WITH INTEGRATED CHECKER**
SERIAL NO. : Unknown *10/663,581*
FILED : September 16, 2003
EXAMINER : Unknown
ART UNIT : Unknown
CONFIRMATION NO. : Unknown
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : HONZ 2 00011

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicant(s) submit(s) the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicant(s) is (are) aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice dated 05 August 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Applicant(s) has not enclosed copies of the cited U.S. patents with this Disclosure.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed require(s) no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Consideration of the appropriate paragraph(s) indicated below is respectfully requested:

☒ **WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING:** Under § 1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION:** Under § 1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT:** Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION/WITH FEE:** Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **PRIORITY CLAIM:** The attached PTO 1449 Form includes all patents, publications, or other information previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one or more prior applications from which the present application claims priority. These one or more prior applications are identified in the papers accompanying the filing of this


application. In accordance with § 609 MPEP, only copies of art not previously submitted are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the attached document(s) be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, LLP


December 15, 2003
Date

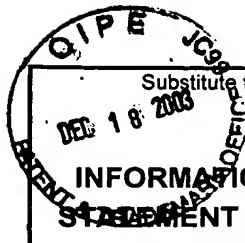

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216/861-5582

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying document(s) are being
☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, addressed to:
 Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
☐ transmitted to facsimile number under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated below.
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 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
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Express Mail Label No.:
Date
December 15, 2003

Signature

Printed Name
Audrey M. Dragony



Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT(S) (Use as many sheets as necessary)	COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
	Application Number	Unknown
	Filing Date	September 16, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Steven Thiele et al.
	Art Unit	Unknown
	Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet 1 of 2	Attorney Docket No.	HONZ 2 00011

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document No. Number-Kind Code (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	US-3,370,317	02/27/1968	Marchione	
	AB	US-3,387,406	06/11/1968	Coker et al.	
	AC	US-3,431,588	03/11/1969	Frey	
	AD	US-3,567,274	03/02/1971	Kaptur, Jr. et al.	
	AE	US-3,592,504	07/13/1971	Sandor	
	AF	US-3,729,772	05/1/1973	Marchione	
	AG	US-3,870,361	03/11/1975	Krause	
	AH	US-3,905,064	09/16/1975	Brockhaus	
	AI	US-4,285,098	08/25/1981	Hicks et al.	
	AJ	US-4,380,848	04/26/1983	Guionie et al.	
	AK	US-4,536,918	08/27/1985	Brockhaus	
	AL	US-4,617,712	10/21/1986	Streett	

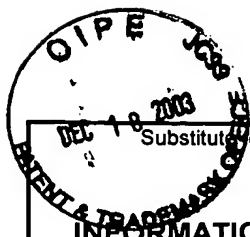
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known)				
	AM					
	AN					
	AO					
	AP					

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T
	AQ		
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Examiner Signatur		Date Considered	
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(Use as many sheets as necessary)

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

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Sheet 2 of 2

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	BA	US-4,672,715	06/16/1987	Beckwith	
	BB	US-4,700,983	10/20/1987	Kinaga et al.	
	BC	US-4,932,101	06/12/1990	Lualdi	
	BD	US-5,226,202	07/13/1993	Griffins	
	BE	US-5,235,726	08/17/1993	Geier, Jr. et al.	
	BF	US-5,575,037	11/19/1996	Tolle et al.	
	BG	US-5,675,869	10/14/1997	Lotz	
	BH	US-5,791,017	08/11/1998	Klütting	
	BI	US-5,794,309	08/18/1998	Lotz	
	BJ	US-6,148,481	11/21/2000	Chen	
	BK	US-			
	BL	US-			

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		Country Code-Number Kind Code (if known)				
	BM					
	BN					
	BO					
	BP					

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T
	BQ		
	BR		
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